

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Original) Process for the manufacture of an oral composition, said oral composition comprising from 5 to 60% by weight calcium carbonate as abrasive, said method characterised by the preparation of a slurry which comprises substantially all of the ingredients present in said oral composition followed by the addition of a thickening mixture to form said oral composition.

Claim 2 (Original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the thickening mixture comprises a polymeric thickening mixture selected from carboxyl methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenin, gum tragacanth, xanthan gum, guar gum, alginates, bentonite and other natural clays and synthetic inorganic clays.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the thickening mixture comprises flavour at from 0.001 to 100% by weight of the final composition.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the thickening mixture comprises surfactant.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the thickening mixture comprises a fluoride ion source.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the thickening mixture comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of the oral composition.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises an aqueous suspension of calcium carbonate.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises a humectant.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises a thickening silica.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises dispersant.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises a fluoride ion source.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the slurry is prepared by adding calcium carbonate to a water/humectant mixture.

Claim 13 (Original) A continuous process for the manufacture of an oral composition, said method characterised by the following steps:

- (a) preparation of an aqueous suspension of calcium carbonate;
- (b) optional addition of further ingredients to said suspension;
- (c) optional de-aeration of said suspension;
- (d) addition of thickening mixture;

- (e) mixing of said suspension and thickening mixture;
- (f) standing for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes or for long enough for the thickening mixture to hydrate;
- (g) mixing for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes.